

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 21, with the following amended paragraph:

Analyzing the traffic flow through routers R1 to R4 201-204 illustrates the polarization effect. Each router R1 to R4 201-204 has the same load balancing algorithm H1(S,D). H1 takes as input a source address and a destination address, hashes them, and gives an integer result (hash bin); the hash function can be the one shown in pseudo-code above for example. For example, there can be hash bins 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7. Each hash bin is mapped to either "+" or "-", and traffic is directed ~~directly~~ accordingly. For example, bins 0, 2, 4, and 6 can be mapped to "+" and odd bins 1, 3, 5, and 7 to "-" for equal load sharing. At R1 traffic mapped to a "+" is sent to R2: R2 receives traffic polarized in the "+" direction. At R2 this traffic goes through H1 with the same "+" result and is sent to the "+" output interface. There is no sharing of the load at R2. Similarly, all traffic at R3 and R4 is routed to the "+" path.